

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

DATE: December 20, 2006

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:38 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 7:35 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Mary Moriarty Adams, Chair
Greg Bowes
Vernon Brown
Sherron Franklin
Lynn McWhirter
William Oliver
Lincoln Plowman

Absent Members

Scott Schneider

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 640, 2006 - approves certain public purpose grants totaling \$500,000 from the Drug Free Community Fund
“Do Pass as Amended”

Vote: 7-0

Project Lifesaver - Perry Township and Wayne Township Firefighters

Super 70 Project Impact to Public Safety – Commissioner Karl Browning; Earl Morgan, Public Safety Director; Sheriff Frank Anderson; and James Greeson, Indianapolis Fire Chief

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, December 20, 2006. Chair Mary Moriarty Adams called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. with the following members present: Greg Bowes, Vernon Brown, Sherron Franklin, Lynn McWhirter, William Oliver, and Lincoln Plowman. Absent was Scott Schneider.

PROPOSAL NO. 640, 2006 - approves certain public purpose grants totaling \$500,000 from the Drug Free Community Fund

Diana Burleson, Director of the Marion County Justice Agency (MCJA), stated that there is an amendment to this proposal (Exhibit A, attached). Councillor Bowes said that there is one small change and a clerical change in the amendment. He said the purpose of this amendment is to ensure there is enough money in each Drug Free Community Grant category to be distributed.

Councillor Bowes moved, seconded by Councillor McWhirter, to “Amend” Proposal No. 640, 2006 per Exhibit A. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Ms. Burleson said the state statute dictates how to expend and allocate grants under Drug Free Marion County, which has three main categories: 1) Prevention, 2) Treatment, and 3) Criminal Justice, as well as an Administrative piece. She said this proposal reflects these three areas and the recommendations by the Drug Free Marion County Board and Criminal Justice Planning Council (CJPC).

Councillor Franklin asked for clarification on the organization and project section of the grant awards, which is administrating and receiving the grant money. Randy Miller, Executive Director of Drug Free Marion County, said the organization applies for the grant and typically has a name for the project. He said the grant money is going to the organization to fund a particular project.

Councillor Bowes mentioned that another technical amendment needs to be made in Section 1 of the proposal. Councillor Bowes moved, seconded by Councillor McWhirter, to “Amend” Section 1 of Proposal No. 640, 2006 to read \$551,734. The motion carried by vote of 7-0.

Councillor Gibson asked how other organizations can be encouraged to get involved in funding. He said his primary concern is funding for young fathers and ex-offenders to assist in getting their lives back together. Mr. Miller said they requested a minimum of \$20,000 from each organization and were able to fund 24 projects this year, versus 16 projects last year. He said the problem is that they have a limited amount of funding and cannot control the number of applicants. Councillor Gibson said he hopes the Council can be a part of encouraging more participation from organizations.

Councillor Bowes shared his experience on the Drug Free Marion County Board and stated they could do better in informing organizations that grants are available. He said the Board did a lot of work in making sure the organizations that received money were able to show where improvements were made. Councillor Bowes said that more work and resources need to be directed into this program.

Councillor Oliver asked for explanations on Boys and Girls Club, Smart Moves project and Perry Township, Brightwood/Forest Manor Summer project. Mr. Miller said the Smart Moves project has been implemented for several years and is used in their clubs to teach prevention on drugs and alcohol. He said the Brightwood/Forest Manor Summer camp is a six-week program that concentrates on prevention in the neighborhood. Councillor Oliver asked if youth that participate in the programs have shown up in drug treatment court. Mr. Miller said they have no way to measure that, because they have no data on participants. He said there will be accountability and measurability standards beginning next year that will focus on specific goals and outcomes.

Councillor Brown asked if they meet with applicants after the review process to discuss what they can do to improve their application in the future. Mr. Miller replied in the negative. He said the people who review the applications are volunteers and simply do not have the time for additional meetings. Councillor Brown said that it would help to have a few people on hand to help those who are not familiar with the application process. Mr. Miller said this year they did contract with an outside agency, USA Grants, to do grant training. He said this program was offered to all organizations.

Councillor Bowes moved, seconded by Councillor McWhirter, to send Proposal No. 640, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass as Amended" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Project Lifesaver

Mike Pruitt, Public Information Officer for Wayne Township Fire Department, said that Project Lifesaver was started in 1999 and is a tracking device that is used to track Alzheimer or Autistic patients. He said the patient wears a wrist band that allows them to be tracked if they wander off. Mr. Pruitt said the device is a transmitting unit with a simple receiver. The average search time is 22 minutes with a 100% success rate with people on the program.

Courtney Copeland, Project Lifesaver Chairperson, said they currently have Perry and Wayne Township on the Project Lifesaver program, with a total of eight clients. She said this program is important to Autistic children because they tend to wander, and usually toward a body of water. Ms. Copeland said within the program, a firefighter is

assigned to a client once a month. She said assessments are done and a caregiver has to be in place before the client is put on the program.

Councillor Brown asked if there is a cost to the program. Ms. Copeland said the cost to the fire department is \$5,000 for two tracking devices. The cost for the client is \$300 for the transmitter and \$15-a-month charge. Ms. Copeland said a scholarship program is in place for those who cannot afford the program, and fundraisers are done to assist the fire departments. Councillor Brown asked what the job duties consist of for the firefighter. Ms. Copeland said the firefighter meets with the client and makes sure all equipment is working correctly. She said the firefighters work on a volunteer basis with the program.

Councillor McWhirter asked how far the tracking distance is with the device. Mr. Pruitt said they can track up to a one-mile distance, and enhancements can be made by air tracking for up to seven miles. He said Channel 13 has shown interest in allowing the program to use their helicopter in a search.

Councillor Oliver asked about the relationship with nursing homes and the Project Lifesaver program. Ms. Copeland said they have no nursing home clients on the program, because the nursing home is responsible for their clients.

Super 70 Project Impact to Public Safety

Chair Moriarty Adams made open remarks to the Super 70 Project. She said many may be aware that, beginning this winter, three interchanges on the City's Eastside will be closed for an extended period of time in 2007. This is an extensive interstate project called Super 70 that has tremendous impact on the Eastside. This entire Super 70 project will impact Public Safety and those businesses on the City's Eastside. She said that at the recommendation of Earl Morgan, Director of Public Safety, Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) officials will be making a presentation before the committee.

Andy Dietrick, Communications Director of INDOT, gave a presentation on the Super 70 project (Exhibit B, on file in the Council office). Some key points are as follows:

- Super 70 is an aggressive project; however, it is a matter of public safety. This stretch of road is past its prime and needs to be rebuilt. It includes I-70 from the North Split, with I-65 to the east leg of I-465.
- This project will consist of a \$175 million investment, replace 75 lane miles of pavement, and rehabilitate 28 bridge decks.

- There are two construction phases: main construction will take place from February through July 2007, and the second phase will begin in July and run through late November 2007.
- Diverting of vehicles and ramp closings will help ensure the project is completed in nine months.
- Department of Public Works (DPW) has already been working on handling the increase of vehicles on city streets due to highway closures.
- Entire interchanges will not be closed. Instead, there will be limited access in the construction zone.
- Super 70 is a very complex project and has been in the planning and discussion phases for a significant amount of time.

Councillor Franklin asked if anything will change if the Council has objections. Mr. Dietrick replied in the negative and said this is the plan with which they will be working. He said according to the best engineers this is the best, safest, and shortest way to make this project happen. Councillor Franklin asked if they have made the Mayor's Office aware of this project. Mr. Dietrick said he did not attend those meetings; however, he does believe this is the plan that was presented to the Mayor's Office.

Councillor Oliver asked what exactly has been done to prepare the city streets for the increase of vehicles. Carlton Ray, DPW, said they have been preparing for Super 70 for a couple of years by paving streets. He said more improvements have been identified, and a request for funding has been made to INDOT.

Chair Moriarty Adams asked who has been the contact in DPW with state officials. Mr. Ray said Long Nguyen, project manager, and Larry Jones have been the contacts from DPW.

Commissioner Karl Browning said there has been a lot of work done over the past several years that has prepared the east side for this construction. He said it is his strong belief that the city and state have been partners throughout the project. Commissioner Browning said they continue to work very hard to find additional compromises that will improve the circumstances of the Super 70 project. He said that this will be a very difficult project because it is something that needs to happen, and the challenge is how to get the job done in a way that benefits everyone.

Councillor McWhirter asked if neighborhood meetings have been conducted. Commissioner Browning replied in the affirmative and said the meetings were not very well attended. He added that they could have done a better job coordinating the meetings. Chair Moriarty Adams stated that her district will be affected by this project and she was not notified.

Guy Boruff, INDOT representative, said the exits that will be closed will be accessible to emergency vehicles on most days. He said the roads will not be closed entirely under the bridges because Emergency Management Services (EMS) and hospitals will need access. He added that if a citizen would take I-465, two and a half miles would be added to their trip time. Mr. Boruff said their responsibility is to reduce exposure to risk, and it is believed that the less time it takes to do this project, the less incidents will occur.

Chair Moriarty Adams asked with whom in the Department of Public Safety (DPS) the state has worked. Mr. Boruff said in the meetings he has attended, the Marion County Sheriff's Department (MCSD), Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD), and the Indianapolis Police Department (IPD) had representatives present.

Earl Morgan, Director of DPS, said two weeks ago he became aware of the Super 70 project and immediately, a staff meeting was convened to gather information on the project. He said they have not been engaged in the project to the extent needed. Mr. Morgan said they directed their time to response time and handling trauma issues.

Chair Moriarty Adams asked if the plan is to go to Community East Hospital first when dealing with emergency apparatus. James Greeson, Chief of the Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD), said there are two level one trauma centers, Methodist and Wishard Hospitals, and typically all transports go to level one hospitals first. He said a lot of the trauma issues will be worked out soon in a meeting January 4, 2007.

Chair Moriarty Adams asked if while work is being done on the exit ramps emergency apparatus will still have immediate access. Mr. Boruff replied in the affirmative and said they will be working with moveable barriers during construction, and some ramps will not be under construction.

Councillor Brown asked what the economic impact will be for surrounding businesses. Mr. Boruff said it is anticipated that there will be some increase in customers to businesses along the new routes, with the possibility of others losing business. He said this will be a difficult situation, but public information is the key to providing alternate routes for people to still get to those business that may be affected by this project.

Commissioner Browning said they do not do business economic impact studies on any construction projects

Chair Moriarty Adams said she is concerned because there is an economic impact that she feels is not being addressed.

John Ball, Director of the Emergency Management Planning Division, DPS, said they plan to work with all public safety responders to make sure plans are in place and for those public safety responders to have a clear understanding on what the project means and its' potential impacts. He said they are concerned and would like to be aware of any road and bridge closures in advance to assist in managing accidents.

Chair Moriarty Adams asked if there will be Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on upcoming closures. Mr. Dietrick said the communications will include earned and paid media, PSAs, and a series of open houses along the Eastside to discuss the project. He also indicated that the Super 70 website (www.super70.in.gov) will be key to any construction updates.

Chief Clifford Myers, of Indianapolis Police Department (IMPD), said they have identified 42 locations that will need to be staffed with officers to deal with the congested areas. He said the first few days of the project will be critical to get information out to the general public.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Moriarty Adams, Chair
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

MMA/as